



**CREATING OUR FUTURE**

Words can not describe how amazing the experience of Dance Rites was, sharing our culture & keeping it alive through dance and witnessing the powerful traditional customs, language and contemporary culture with hundreds of First Nation's dancers from all around Australia.

I can honestly say we were all winners in my eyes . Our students accomplished so much and really stepped up. They gave their all at a professional level. We represented our Gumbaynggir country and performed the Warrall Creek dance that has not been performed in years and to have the Elders respect to be allowed to perform this was a great honour.

I have watched the student's passion & drive develop and know they will continue dancing in their communities without being SHAME. The dancers also now have the opportunity to perform next year at Bluesfest in Byron Bay.

**Gloria Mercy,  
Aboriginal Education Officer**

## Dance Rites



Toormina High School Aboriginal dancers recently joined with students from four local high schools: Macksville, Nambucca Heads, Bowraville and Bellingen to perform at Dance Rites at the Sydney Opera House.

This group, Yiliwiyaygundi Gundi Yuludarla, was led by our Toormina High School dance teacher, Gloria Mercy, Steven Donovan, Troy Robinson and storyteller, language and songman, Michael Jarrett.

This dance competition (open to all, not just school students), draws together performers representing nations from across the country.





### Year 7 Scholarships 2020

Congratulations to: Lily Champion, Fyn Harrison, Isabella Zamitt, Asha Wordsworth and Kiera Welsh, recipients of our 2020 Year 7 Scholarships.



### Orientation Day Year 7 2020!

Orientation Day started with an assembly for parents and students, our amazing Aboriginal Dance Group 'Miimi Gundi Wajaar' performed and Principal, Paul Humphrey explained high school systems and introduced staff.

Organisation for the day included school tours, morning tea for parents and lunch for students (thank you hospitality students and staff), information bags, a concert, sport lessons, science experiments and art and music groups. Prior to Orientation day there has also been Transition Team visits to primary schools and Taster lessons! Thank you to all staff and students involved.





Eight Toormina High School students participated in the **Northern NSW Philosothon** recently over two days. At the end of the event participants voted to award their peers. Of the four awards presented two were awarded to students from Toormina High School. Ryan Gilchrist, 'Most Promising Philosopher' and Zali Van Stijn, 'Spirit of Philosophy'. Great work!

**Katherine Melrose, Coordinator**



The trials for the **North Coast Cricket** team were conducted in Grafton recently, with two of our students being successful gaining selection in the team. Ellena Cheers-Flavell and Asha Lloyd will represent the region next year in the CHS carnival held at Bathurst. This is the third consecutive time Ellena has made the side and the first for Asha, who is in year 7. This is a tremendous achievement and we wish both girls luck for next years carnival

**Adam Berrada,  
PDHPE Teacher**

During Week 8 I had the privilege of taking Sharnte Cannon to the **Junior State Debating Championships** as part of the North Coast representative team. 10 teams from around the state converged at the Women's College at Sydney University and debated against each other across three days. The North Coast team spoke intelligently and articulated ideas to change Australia to solve issues that our current society is dealing with. They came second in their pool and proceeded to debate against the Sydney region in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, despite presenting some brilliant arguments, they lost the debate as the negative team 'That we should have equal men and women in leadership positions for any company doing business in Australia'. Sharnte is to be congratulated on speaking in every debate and making it to the top 4 teams of NSW during the championships.

**Sally Atkins  
Team Debating Coach**



Congratulations to Cooper McInally, year 9, photographed below, named as **2019 AIME Male Mentor of the Year!**



## Year 7 LOTE Projects

Year 7 students were tasked to produce a game to make Gumbaynggirr fun. Each game was to engage two or more players with Gumbaynggirr language for 20 minutes or longer. Students are now able to enjoy the games.

**Penny Grace, LOTE Teacher**



## Smart City

The TAS Department has purchased four sets of Anki Overdrive racing car sets. The vehicles (cars and trucks) run off Bluetooth technology. Students have been given the task of designing a Smart City.

A Smart City uses ICT to increase operational efficiency and services, share information with the public, reduce resource wastage and continue the advancement in sustainability practices and enhancing public safety and wellbeing.

The student's project involves setting up the track as a road system, establishing where specific buildings will be placed, coming up with a scenario and programming their vehicles to achieve a specific end result. The photo shows 8TECH2 students getting preparations underway.

**Tanya Crough, TAS Teacher**



## Food Tech MORNING TEA

Students studying year 7 Technology in Food tech this term have had the opportunity to showcase their skills and growing confidence by delivering morning tea to invited guests. Students served items they had made this term during practical lessons. This was a great opportunity to show parents, carers, and other staff of Toormina High School some of the achievements our students have made this term. We look forward to hosting more in the new year.

**Mel Sharkey, TAS Teacher**



### Mathematics

Our students received their certificates for the Australian Mathematics Competition and the ICAS Mathematics Competition, both held earlier this year. Congratulations to all participants.

We will be running these competitions again next year. The competitions are open to all students and enrolment is generally early in the year.

Pictured are the recipient of certificates from ICAS Mathematics Competition.

**Paula Stanton, Head Teacher Mathematics (Rel)**



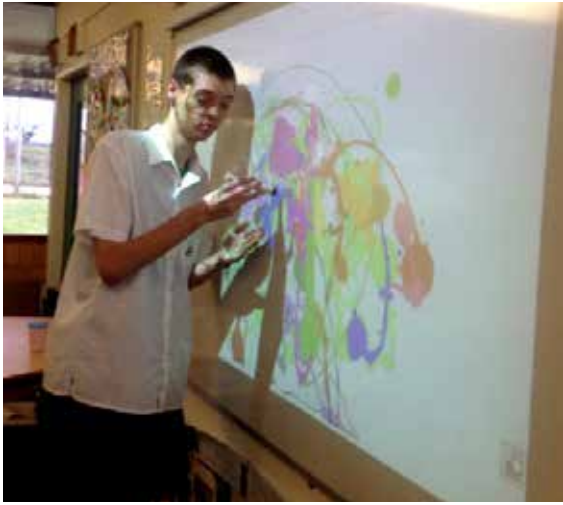
We also recently held the **Maths Olympics**, an all day competition! Our brightest minds will be using their mathematical skills to solve three challenges: an Escape Room, a Quest for Answers and a Whodunnit! What a great initiative from our Maths Faculty!



Kiara Wishnowsky, Cassandra Hay, Pollyanna Elliott, Poppy Browne, Jia Mounser (absent from photo Mia Diggins, Audrey Van Schellebeck)

During term 1 this year, these students participated in the **Choose Maths** competition. This involves creating a video demonstrating mathematical ideas and investigations around the theme "Maths is Everywhere". These students were extremely creative in their video presentations displaying an array of skills both mathematical, digital and technological and should be congratulated on their efforts, well done girls!!

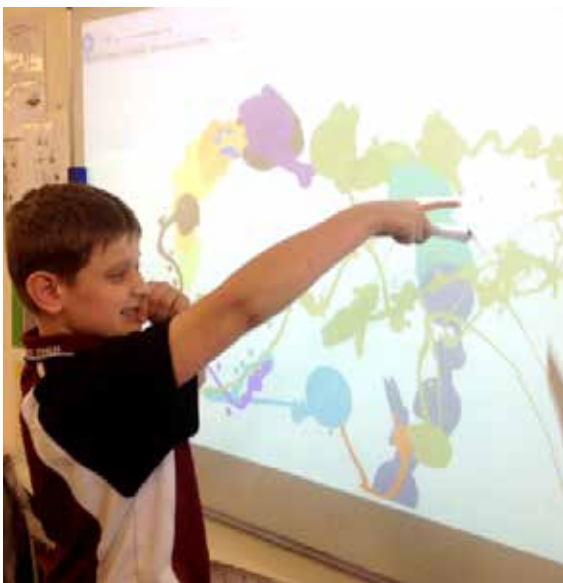
**Katie Griffiths, Maths Teacher**



## Interactive Art

Two of our Support Unit students engaging in interactive art on the smart board. Photo below is River Maxwell, year 7 and above shows Kyia Breust, year 11. What a fantastic teaching aid.

**Seanine Cooper, Head Teacher Support**



Yarn Up Morning Tea will be held on Monday 16th December from 12pm to 1pm in



## Christmas Appeal

Staff and students wore Hawaiian shirts recently and donated gold coins to the Kmart Christmas Appeal, supporting local families. Photo shows some of the English staff looking fabulous.



## The Flock

As a continuation of the Overwintering Project that our student and art teachers have been involved in, with the Coffs harbour Regional Gallery, we will have birds created by our students, as part of a flock at the Sawtell Summer Sessions.



## Virtual Field Trip

The Room 21 class in the Support Unit went on a virtual field trip travelling many miles from the comfort of our classroom to visit Calaveras Big Tree Park California State Park.

We went for a walk through the park and heard from Ranger Jenny about the Giant Sequoia and the history of the park. We discussed all the animals that live in the park, we even saw a squirrel. Thank you to Microsoft Edu for the opportunity.

**Bridget Thornton, Support Teacher**



Ms Taylor's class Christmas Party above - YAY!



## Peer Support Training

Year 9 students split into groups to begin a day of Peer Support training this week. This program places students at the centre of their learning, empowering them with practical skills and strategies to positively navigate life and relationships. The last activity of the day was a fun team building exercise to make fashion from newspaper and tape.







## Merry Christmas!

Our school mufti day, wearing Hawaiian shirts, raised \$416, and the Student leadership Team bought presents for the Kmart Wishing Tree.

Public education building communities!



## Choir

Some of our singers have been rehearsing to perform as part of a combined school choir at Carols by Candlelight in Coffs Harbour.



Please 'like' the Toormina High School Facebook page (look for the school logo) and 'share' our posts - this is a free, easy way to show the world our achievements and activities! The THS Library also has a Facebook page.

## P&C News

I would like to thank all the staff for the great job they have done teaching our children throughout 2019. I would also like to thank the P&C and the school community for their support with fundraisers this year. Funds raised from the P&C went towards the purchase of student injury insurance, financial assistance for students representing the school, financial assistance for teams competing in the Kokoda Challenge on the Gold Coast, helping fund students from the Support Unit to attend the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival award Night in Sydney and the purchase of Year 12 Graduation gowns & sashes.

On Wednesday, 4th December, we held our last P&C meeting for the year, the P&C acknowledged Michele Bake and Dionne Court for all their hard work, commitment and contribution to the P&C in previous years.

I hope you all have a safe and Merry Christmas and a great New Year. Looking forward to seeing new faces in 2020. Our first P&C meeting will be 5th February 2020, 5.30-6.30pm in the Staff Common Room.

Regards

**Sandra Jeffery**  
**P&C President**

### Principal's Column

I regularly take time to reflect on our achievements as a school and as the school year for 2019 draws to a close, it is important to look back and celebrate our achievements. 2019 saw our school grow to 780 students. It saw our staff, including temporary and casual staff reach 100. It saw our Aboriginal and Torres Islander student population hit 200 students. We commenced VIVO rewards, recognising student behaviour and re-established a merit system. We purchased 600 laptops for student use. We had students compete in sports from school to State levels and had students represent our school in Debating and Leadership at State level. Our Aboriginal dancers received high acclaim across our broader community. We also replaced the roof on the Admin Block, upgraded all of the electrical switch boxes, fixed stairs, concrete and re-carpeted classrooms. We continued to grow our positive reputation in our community.

We are working on reducing distractions to learning from mobile technology in 2020. Continuing to improve the grounds and facilities for students and teachers. Developing stronger programs that support student learning and improve mental wellbeing. We are hopeful that we will receive air-conditioners in all classrooms during 2020.

Toormina High School is an extremely busy place all year round. Through the support of the highly professional teachers and support staff, and the support from parents and carers we demonstrate that we can have massive impacts on our students, our future community every day.

I thank every parent, teacher, administrative officer, student learning support officer and groundsman for the hard work they do in raising our students as young, mature responsible global citizens.

I look forward to continuing working in partnership in 2020. I congratulate the students for their efforts in 2019 and challenge them all do even better in 2020. Merry Christmas to everyone and have a safe and happy holiday season.

**Paul Humphrey, Principal**

The mysterious happenings continue at Toormina High School!

Small presents and kind notes are being found in classrooms and no-one knows who is doing these 'Random Acts of Kindness' but we like it!



**Our dancers were invited to perform at the opening of the Yarning Circle at William Bayldon Public School recently.**

IMPORTANT DATES		
MON	16/12 - 20/12	WEEK A
MON	16/12	Support Unit Presentation
MON	16/12	Yarn Up, 12pm - 1pm, Room 2
TUES	17/12	Major Awards 10 - 12
WED	18/12	Last day for all students, Term 4, 2019
MON	27/1/20	Australia Day Public Holiday
TUES	28/1/20	Staff Development Day, Pupil Free
<b>WED</b>	<b>29/10/20</b>	<b>Year 7 students begin Term 1 today</b>
<b>THURS</b>	<b>30/1/20</b>	<b>Year 11 &amp; 12 students begin Term 1 today</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>31/1/20</b>	<b>Year 8, 9 &amp; 10 students begin Term 1 today</b>
WED	5/2/20	Swimming Carnival
WED	5/2/20	P&C Meeting, 5:30pm, all welcome!

### Toormina High School

#### UNIFORM SHOP

#### JANUARY HOURS

Wed 22/1/20 9am-2pm

Thurs 23/1/20 9am - 2pm

Fri 24/1/20 9am - 2pm

Mon 27/1/20 - closed

Tues 28/1/20 9am - 3pm

Wed 29/1/20 8:30am - 2:30pm

Thurs 30/1/20 8:30am - 2:30pm

Fri 31/1/20 8:30am - 2:30pm

Manager - Jess 0468 436 217



### Peer Support

Peer Support at THS this year saw 46 year 10 students commit to guiding and supporting our current year 7 cohort. The Peer Support Australia program focuses on building key skills around:

- Building Resilience
- Establishing healthy relationships
- Anti-bullying
- Organisation skills

During the program, students worked in small groups developing skills, discussing experiences and sharing ideas. The year 7 cohort have reflected on this year's program as being extremely helpful and enjoyed working with the year 10 peer leaders.

2020 will see our current year 9 students facilitating the program with the incoming year 7 cohort and promises to be an even more enjoyable year with improved activities and discussions.

**Katie Griffiths, Co-ordinator**

# NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 4 | WEEK 9 | December 2019



CAPA Concert and Exhibition - congratulations to students and staff!

